



NEWS

U. S. Interagency Council on Homelessness
Veterans Affairs Secretary, Anthony Principi, Chairman

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, April 1, 2004

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More Progress on Commitment to End Chronic Homelessness: Bush Administration Announces \$30 Million in New Funds

WASHINGTON – As part of the Bush Administration's commitment to end chronic homelessness in the next decade, the Administration today announced more than \$30 million in new federal resources targeted to preventing and ending chronic homelessness.

The announcement came at a meeting of the US Interagency Council on Homelessness meeting, attended by VA Secretary Anthony Principi, HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson, Education Secretary Rod Paige, HUD Acting Secretary Alphonso Jackson and Deputy Labor Secretary Steven Law. The Council Members also welcomed Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty and Chattanooga Mayor Bob Corker to the meeting.

Key Items from the Interagency Meeting:

- The Bush Administration's \$70 million Samaritan Initiative, a new, comprehensive grant program targeted to reducing homelessness on the streets of our communities was introduced in Congress this week by Arizona Congressman Rick Renzi.
- Secretary Principi announced \$15 million in awards for VA Grant and Per Diem transitional beds for homeless veterans, representing a total of 1,500 beds.
- The Social Security Administration announced \$6.6 million in awards to 34 sites to support enrollment of chronically homeless individuals who are eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
- Acting Secretary Jackson announced \$6.5 million in HUD HOME funds targeted to housing for persons experiencing chronic homelessness.
- The Department of Justice will offer supplemental funding of up to \$300,000 to approximately 20 grantees under the Serious and Violent Offenders Re-entry Initiative to identify housing opportunities.
- Secretary Thompson announced that HHS will sustain funding to the 11 community sites which received awards last year under the Collaborative Initiative to End Chronic Homelessness in FY 2004 and FY 2005 at \$10 million. This brings the total HHS support over the 3 years to approximately \$30 million.
- Deputy Secretary Law announced \$1 million to four demonstration programs under the President's Incarcerated Veterans Transition Program.